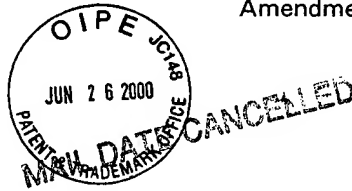
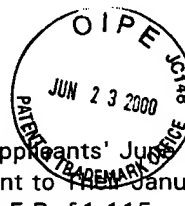


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REMARKS

Through this Communication, Applicants wish to report on favorable events which continue in regard to the prosecution of their corresponding European Patent Application No. 88104962.1, published on October 5, 1988 as European Patent No. 0 285 058 A2. This European application is based upon the very same U.S. priority document, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 06/391,440, filed on June 23, 1982, as the present U.S. patent application. Since their January 19, 1999 Communication forwarding their European associates' December 7, 1998 letter in which it was indicated that the European patent examiner has held that "the revised claims submitted with our last reply meet the requirements of Art. 123(2) EPC and confirms their patentability with regard to novelty and inventive step," Applicants have just received another letter from their European associates.

In this latest letter dated June 23, 2000, the European associates wrote:

Please be informed that new claims and completely revised case paper have been filed with the EPO so that hopefully the next communication issued by the European Patent Office will be the Communication pursuant to Rule 51(4) EPC.

A copy of their European associates' June 23, 2000 letter is attached to this Communication as Exhibit 1.

It is in the form of a Rule 51(4) EPC Communication that the EPO states its intent to issue a patent. This is the equivalent of a Notice of Allowance in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. As soon as the next communication is received from the EPO, most likely a Communication pursuant to Rule 51(4) EPC, Applicants will forward same together with the allowed claims that will appear in the granted European patent. Applicants respectfully request that this information and the possible granting of their European patent be considered by the Examiner in the present application.

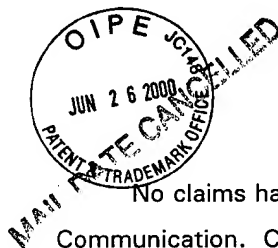
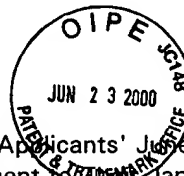
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SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

No claims have been changed, added or canceled by this Communication. Claims 454-575 as previously amended in Applicants' June 22, 2000 Second Supplemental Amendment continue to be presented for further examination in this application.

No fee or fees are believed due for filing this Communication. In the event that any other fee or fees are due, however, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 05-1135, or to credit any overpayment thereto.

If a telephone conversation would further the prosecution of the present application, Applicants' undersigned attorney request that he be contacted at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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